



CSCP Support Materials

for

Eduqas GCSE Latin, Component 3A

Latin Literature (Narratives) Ovid, *The Flood*

For examination in 2020 and 2021

Teacher's Notes: Section F



Section F

Deucalion and Pyrrha reach land (*Metamorphoses* 1.313-323)

A pious, married couple, Deucalion and Pyrrha, who have survived the flood in a boat, run aground on Mount Parnassus.

Notes

- 1 **separat**: certainly in the present tense, though perhaps not a “historic present” as it is a geographical comment that applies even to this day. The same is true of *petit* (line 4) and *superant* (line 5).

Aonios Oetaeis Phocis: *Phocis* is the subject of the sentence, and was a region in central Greece. *Aonios* is a reference to Boeotia, the region to the east of Phocis (“Aonia” is a poetic term for Boeotia which is derived from the Aonian Mountains, one of which was Mount Helicon, home of the Muses). *Oetaeis* directly refers to Mount Oeta, a mountain to the north west of Phocis, but it seems here to be a reference to the region of Thessaly which lies beyond it. It is perhaps not surprising that Ovid uses references to mountains here, as they would have been features that protruded above the flood waters. *arvis* needs to be understood with each of *Aonios* and *Oetaeis* when translating.

A useful map for seeing the locations referred to is https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_ancient_Greece#/media/File:Ancient_Regions_North_and_West_Greece.png which shows Phocis, Boeotia, Thessaly and Mounts Parnassos, Helicon and Oeta.

- 2 **ferax**: Phocis was indeed a “fruitful” land; the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* comments that it was composed of two areas, “both...fertile, [one] possessing pasture and agricultural land, and the latter olives, vines, and corn” (third edition, p. 1173, s.v. “Phocis”). Modern visitors to Delphi are still able to look down upon the olive grove of Amfissa, claimed to be the largest continuous olive grove in Greece with some 1,200,000 trees (<https://greece.terrabook.com/phocis/page/olive-grove-amfissa/>).
- 4-5 **mons...Parnasus**: Mount Parnassus is a mountain in Phocis (referred to in line 4 as *ibi*), and is the site of the sanctuary of Delphi. The view of the mountain which a visitor to Delphi has makes it appear that Parnassus has two peaks (*verticibus...duobus*), although in fact the mountain has one, much higher true summit (2,457m – certainly high enough to be above the level of clouds at times: *cacumina superant nubes*).
- 6 **Deucalion**: Deucalion was the son of Prometheus. Deucalion’s wife, Pyrrha (not named until Section H, Line 3), was the daughter of Epimetheus (their parentage is mentioned in Section J). In many traditions Hellen, the ancestor of

the Greeks (who called themselves “Hellenes”), was the son of Deucalion and Pyrrha.

- 8 **Corycidas nymphas:** these were the daughters of Pleistus (according to Apollonius of Rhodes), a river near Mount Parnassus. They were associated with the Corycian Cave, a cavern associated with divination, located on the upper slopes of Mount Parnassus.

adorant: the only “historic present tense” verb in Section F.

- 9 **fatidicam Themis, quae tunc oracla tenebat:** there was a tradition that Themis was the deity who originally delivered oracles at the sanctuary at Delphi, before being succeeded by the god Apollo: the use of *tunc* is to demonstrate that there was a difference between Ovid’s own time (i.e. “*nunc*”) and previously. Delphi was one of the ancient world’s most famous oracular sites. Note that *oracla* is an abbreviated (“syncopated”) version of *oracula*.

- 10-11 **illo...illa:** these are both ablative, used to make comparisons between Deucalion (*illo*) and Pyrrha (*illa*) and other people.

- 10 **non...quisquam:** these words are used where we might expect to find “*nemo*”.

- 11 **aut...ulla:** we need to include the *non* from line 10 to make sense of this – “no woman was more fearful of the gods than her.”

Questions

1. Look at lines 1-5 (*separat...nubes*):
 - a. What territory is referred to in lines 1-3 (*separat...aquarum*), and how is its current situation different from normal?
 - b. How is Mount Parnassus described in lines 4-5 (*mons...nubes*)?
2. Look at lines 6-11 (*hic...deorum*):
 - a. What do Deucalion and his wife (Pyrrha) do in these lines?
 - b. What impression do we form of Deucalion and Pyrrha? Provide evidence from the Latin to support your ideas.